



Sam Brownback

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BROWNBACK RECEIVES HUMANITARIAN AWARD FOR WORK ON SUDAN

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today received an award for his human rights advocacy on Sudan. Excerpts of his address follow.

“I have taken up advocacy for the Sudanese people because I believe in the righteousness of their cause,” Brownback said. “The people of Sudan, may well be among the most persecuted people in the world. They surely are the most persecuted in Africa.

“I went to Southern Sudan in June, where I visited an embattled but noble group of people who are fighting to maintain their freedom. There are 2 million dead, including the 100,000 who died last year from starvation because of the deliberate withholding of food by their own government, inducing a false famine. Countless thousands are presently held as slaves by Northern masters, suffering all the indignities that entails. This is what the opposition forces who stand against the National Islamic Front government of Sudan endure.

“Why do they fight? They are inspired by a desire for religious liberty, democracy and human dignity, and therefore, they have captured my allegiance to help them in these efforts. This is a strategic battle which the new Religious Liberty Commission in Washington, D.C. has just identified as one of their top priorities this year.

“Given these facts, it is time to mature our policy and agree on at least three key action items: (1) a ‘just’ peace, (2) the alleviation of their horrible human rights sufferings, and (3) assistance in developing a civil society. This is my broad blue print for action, and I invite advocates to join me towards these ends. I have also introduced legislation – the Sudan Peace Act, S.1492 – with Senators Frist, Lieberman, and Feingold, to accomplish these ends. Just last week it was voted out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts has taken up this legislation in the House.

Joining Brownback at the conference and also receiving awards for their human rights advocacy for the Sudan were U.S. Sen. Bill Frist, U.S. Reps. Frank Wolf and Donald M. Payne, and Sudanese Bishop Macram Max Gassis. Also attending were singer-song writer Michael Card, NYC Comptroller Allen Hevesi, Pastor Chuck Singleton, Deputy Speaker of the UK House of Lords Baroness Cox, Christian Solidarity International Director John Eibner, A. Phillip Randolph Institute president Norman Hill, Holocaust Museum Chief of Staff William Parsons, and Salvation Army National Commander John Busby. Additionally, several commissioners of the newly established Religious Liberty Commission attended and participated in the conference .